

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of locking a resource in a distributed environment, the method

comprising:

receiving a request to access the resource, wherein the request originates from a requesting client computer system;

5 creating a lock having a predetermined type, wherein the predetermined type provides availability to other client computer systems for predetermined purposes;

providing a lock token related to the created lock to the requesting client computer system; and

performing the requested access.

2. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the request to access the resource provides an indication as to the type of access and to the type of lock to be created during the access, said method further comprising:

prior to the act of creating a lock, determining whether the resource is locked by

5 another client computer system; and wherein

the act of creating a lock only occurs if no existing lock conflicts with the type of access requested or the type of lock requested.

3. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the predetermined type of the lock provides other client computer systems access to the resource for the purpose of reading the resource.

4. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the predetermined type of the lock provides other client computer systems access to the resource for the purpose of writing the resource.
5. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the predetermined type of the lock provides other client computer systems access to the resource for the purpose of deleting the resource.
6. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the predetermined type of the lock provides other client computer systems access to the resource for the purpose of two of the following: reading, deleting and writing the resource.
7. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the resource may be locked by more than one client computer system.
8. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the requesting client computer system requests the type of lock to be created and a server computer system creates and maintains the lock.
9. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the lock is advisory.
10. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 1.
11. A method of maintaining an advisory lock on a resource in a distributed environment, the method comprising:

receiving an access request for the resource from a requesting client computer system;

- 5 determining whether the resource is locked by another computer system;

if the resource is locked by another computer system with a conflicting advisory lock then denying access if the requesting client computer system honors advisory locks; and

performing the access if the requesting client computer system does not honor the  
10 advisory lock or if the resource is not locked with a conflicting lock.

12. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 11.

13. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a locked resource, wherein the locked resource comprises:

5 a resource object data section for storing actual object data; and  
a lock object, wherein the lock object may comprise one or more of the following properties: nosharewrite, nosharedelete, noshareread, and advisory.